

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 10, 19 and 20 remain pending in the above referenced patent application. In the Examiner's Advisory Action, the Examiner maintained that all claims remain rejected for the reasons set forth in the Examiner's Final Office Action. In this regard, the Examiner rejected claims 1 – 10, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1 and 2 were also rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Baxley, et al. (US 6,657,975); and claims 3-10, 19, and 20 were rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Baxley, et al., in view of Pester, III (US 5,475,732). The Applicant has amended claims 1, 19, and 20.

In independent claims 1, 19, and 20, the Applicant has amended the claims to recite that the communications apparatus includes a processing interface that includes at least one pair of Signal Transfer Points (STPs) and that the processing interface is coupled between the claimed plurality of media gateways and at least one other STP that is configured within a PSTN. The claimed communications apparatus, therefore, is connectable to an SS7 network through the processing interface. Support for this language is found on page 3, lines 1 – 3 of the present application. The Applicant maintains that Baxley does not teach or reasonably suggest a communications apparatus that includes STPs which connect to STPs of an SS7 network. In this regard, the prior art, including Baxley, does not teach or reasonably suggest a communication apparatus that uses B-links in place of a larger number of A-links for implementing such connections. See e.g., page 2, lines 19 – 23 through page 3, lines 1 – 3 of the present application. Accordingly, the Applicant believes that claims 1, 19, and 20 are patentable at least in view of the cited references and respectfully requests such disposition. Additionally, claims 2 – 10 depend from independent claim 1 and inherit all of the novel and non obvious features of the independent claim. However, these claims recite additional features that further distinguish from the cited references. Accordingly, claims 2 – 10 are patentable for at least the reasons of patentability cited for claim 1 and the Applicant respectfully requests such disposition.

Based upon the foregoing, the Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

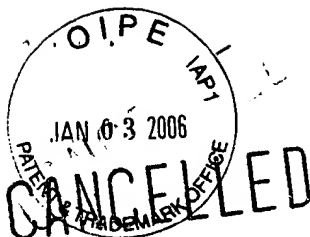
Respectfully submitted,

MARSH FISCHMANN & BREYFOGLE LLP

By: 

Gregory T. Fettig
Registration No. 50,843
3151 South Vaughn Way, Suite 411
Aurora, Colorado 80014
(720) 562-5509

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Attorney: GTF/ms

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Application Docket No.: 42059-01140

Applicant: LOFTUS

Title or Mark: "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR HIGH CAPACITY/FAILURE TOLERANCE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN A SIGNALING NETWORK GATEWAY"

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LIST ALL DOCUMENTS BEING SENT TO PATENT OFFICE:

1. Petition for Extension of Time
2. RCE
3. Amendment
4. Credit Card Payment Form (PTO-2038)
5. Return Post Card